

fosters competition and delivers us, the customer, the lowest cost and the best service. Arizonans need reform that puts the power back into the hands of patients and doctors.

Mr. Speaker, we can do this, and we must do this. If you like your plan, you should be able to keep it and your costs should go down and not up. There are savings to be had in our current system, and we must focus on squeezing out every drop.

TORT REFORM NEEDED TO PRODUCE HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, tort reform would create tens of billions in health care savings. There is no reform of the insane cost and arbitrary rewards of our malpractice system in this bill, because lawyers on the other side won't allow that in the bill.

Instead, according to the Congressional Budget Office, we have the Democrat proposal, with its public option, which will increase costs in excess of \$1 trillion and will cover millions of individuals here illegally, which will drive additional illegal immigration and will drive future costs for health care in this country.

With the subsidized public option and existing businesses shifting out of their current plans into this subsidized public option, as many as 114 million individuals could lose their current insurance, leading to Federal bureaucrats, not patients and doctors, making important decisions about their treatment options.

I urge we revisit this proposal.

PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the most important reasons to pass Obama's health care plan, and that is the current discrimination that Americans with pre-existing conditions face.

Through no fault of their own, perhaps because of a genetic disability passed through by their parents or a childhood disease or a disease later in life, many Americans are uninsurable or only insurable at a very high rate.

That is fundamentally unfair. America is a fair country. We should only have to be responsible for actions that we undertake. Most Americans who suffer from preexisting conditions suffer those because of no fault of their own. It is not fair to make them or their employers pay more simply because of a preexisting condition. This could be you. This could be your son or daughter. This could be any of us who suffer from preexisting conditions.

What the Obama health care reform plan does is it pools the risk together

and prevents discrimination against those who, through no fault of their own, have a preexisting health care condition and ensures that they, too, have access to adequate health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM WITHOUT GOVERNMENT CONTROL

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the best health care in the world, but if you don't have insurance, you have that sinking pit in your stomach that is scary. It is very scary.

But I think I feel like most Americans. I want insurance that I can own. If I lose my job or move to another job or my job leaves me, I want to be able to make sure that I have something that is portable. I am willing to pay my fair share. I want to be able to be covered for catastrophic events.

But I also want to make sure that others pay their fair share. I want to find insurance, even if I have a pre-existing condition, and I want the freedom to choose the insurance that best fits our family's needs.

But, most of all, I don't want a Washington, DC, politician making decisions that should be made between my wife and our doctor. When our sons or daughters need help, I don't want somebody in Washington, DC, to deny it. If my mother or father needs help, I don't want to wait for a government bureaucrat to decide whether or not they are going to be cared for.

In other words, we must stop the government takeover of health care. We need reform, but we don't need more government.

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because, for six decades, we have debated about how to fix health care reform, and now it is time to stop the debates, the denials and the deceit.

We have a uniquely American solution that includes a robust public plan that will lower costs, increase coverage and provide quality care. And for the American people, let's repeat that again: lower costs, increased coverage and provide quality care.

This is really just about what the insurance companies want to fight. Everybody watching the daily news, the evening news, knows that to be true, and the insurance companies will pull no stops to try to defeat health care reform, but we are not going to let them.

Premiums for Americans have doubled in 9 years, three times faster than wages. An American family pays an

extra \$1,100 a year in premiums. It is time for that to stop. Each day, 14,000 people lose health care, and today 60 percent of small business owners, their workers and families have no health care. That is 28 million Americans.

So we can create a plan here that eliminates copays, eliminates the high cost of deductibles for preventive care, caps out-of-pocket expenses and ends the discrimination against preexisting conditions.

WHERE ARE THE PROMISED JOBS?

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, August will be 6 months since the signing of the administration's so-called stimulus plan. Since February, we have been waiting for the jobs that were promised with this bill. We have been waiting so long that my constituents in South Carolina are beginning to wonder if they will ever come.

The President insisted that to save or create up to 4 million jobs, Congress must support this stimulus. Unfortunately, today we continue to lose jobs and pass legislation that will further increase unemployment around the country.

We were told by experts in the administration that unemployment would peak at 8 percent, but, as we all know, national unemployment is now at 9.5 percent. In my home State of South Carolina, it is over 12 percent.

It is a shame that while my constituents are desperately waiting for jobs, the Democratic leadership has made job creation second after bigger government, more borrowing, and ever-increasing spending. They must join Republicans in making our number one priority getting America back to work. My constituents are getting tired of waiting. Where are the jobs?

HEALTH CARE REFORM URGENTLY NEEDED

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our country urgently needs health care reform. Health insurance premiums have more than doubled in 9 years, growing three times faster than our wages. The average American family pays an extra \$1,100 per year in premiums to support a broken system, and we still have 47 million people uninsured. Soaring costs have harmed competitiveness with American businesses in the global economy. I know in my own district, I had one company say they moved part of their production to the Netherlands because health care was cheaper in the Netherlands than it was in the United States.

For six decades America has tried to debate what we can do to fix this broken system. We have had 45 hours of bipartisan debate in three separate

House committees and 79 House hearings on health care reform in just over 2 years.

If you have Medicare or employer-based insurance, you shouldn't be affected. You will have real choice. You will have the freedom to choose your insurance. If you don't have employer-based insurance, then we need you to have an option, and today you don't have that option.

ACHIEVING MEANINGFUL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I traveled throughout my district this past weekend, from Middlesex to Caroline to Fredericksburg, the one thing I heard from folks is they are deeply concerned about the health care reform package that we have before us.

They said, ROB, we see that there is a problem and we need to do something, but we need to do the right thing. We need to take the time to make sure that we craft solutions that control costs, that maintain the relationship between patients and their doctors, to make sure that we keep what is good and what works about this system and we work on those things that are broken.

I hear many ideas from both sides of the aisle that I think accomplish that, and I think it is high time for the majority to make sure that they incorporate ideas from the minority which I believe we have in common to make sure we come up with reasonable, practical, workable solutions for the American people to make sure that we have that access to quality health care reform here in the United States that I know we can achieve.

MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS ON HEALTH CARE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, CBO projects that the public plan option would likely attract around 10 million patients. That certainly puts to rest the assertion that private insurance would go out of business.

Not surprisingly, the estimates that opponents of the public plan are citing to prove their mistaken point were arrived at by the Lewin Group. Guess who owns the Lewin Group? An insurance company.

I urge my colleagues to stop repeating the false message of the health insurance industry. The insurance industry opposes a public option because they know it would force them to be honest, to keep their premiums down for patients.

I urge my colleagues to pay attention to the facts, not the rhetoric, and I urge you to join me in reiterating our

strong commitment to true health reform. Let's pass a bill with a strong public option before we adjourn.

We were elected to make tough decisions and take important votes. We must fulfill this obligation.

ASKING FOR JOBS TODAY

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, America and Ohio are hurting. Ohio has an unemployment rate of 11.1 percent. My district, the Fifth District, is the number one manufacturing and number one agricultural district in the State of Ohio.

One of my counties, Williams, has an unemployment rate of 11.6 percent. I was up there this past weekend and the people were all asking me the same question: Where are the jobs? Where are the jobs? They want jobs today.

The President said this past year that with the stimulus bill, America wouldn't have an unemployment rate of 8 percent. Now it is 9.5 percent. Ohio is 11.1 percent. Since January, America has lost over 3 million jobs. Three million jobs.

This last month, the Democrats passed the cap-and-tax bill. It is estimated it is going to cost millions of American jobs. Millions. Now the Democrat House bill that is before us on health care could cost over 5 million jobs. Five million jobs.

My folks are scared, and they want to know where the jobs are.

Mr. Speaker, we ask for jobs today.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE THAT AMERICANS NEED AND DESERVE

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats have been explaining the health care bill, but our colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem not to have heard. The truth about our bill is that it does not create a government-run health care system. Instead, there is one public plan. Individuals and families can keep the plan they have, or they are free to choose—free to choose—the public plan or one of the private plans in the exchange.

As a doctor, I support the bill, and I want it passed out of Energy and Commerce this week because it gives family doctors like me the support we need to spend time listening to our patients and managing their care. It actually removes the barriers between doctors and their patients.

For those in this country who have never had full access to quality and comprehensive care, we welcome the bill, even though we know it will cost a lot to begin to close the health care gaps that our dysfunctional system has created. We cannot afford not to do it. Lives are at stake. There are enough

savings in this bill from prevention to help pay for it.

To everyone who is holding this bill hostage, please get out of the way and let us pass H.R. 3200 so that everyone in this country can have the health care they deserve and they need.

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CALLING ON DEMOCRATS TO WORK ON A BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, for the second time this month, nonpartisan congressional budget analysts have told Congress the Democratic health plan would increase, not decrease, our Nation's burgeoning long-term health costs. On Saturday the Congressional Budget Office said the proposal to give an independent panel the power to keep Medicare spending in check would, in reality, save almost no money. The bill's proponents had touted the panel as critical to pay for the massive \$1.5 trillion health care legislation. CBO's recent analysis comes on the heels of an earlier budget report, showing that the Democratic health care proposal would add to our already tremendously growing debt of \$11 trillion and rising.

I once again call upon the Democratic leadership to put aside its proposal and work with the centrist Republican Tuesday Group on an affordable and effective alternative that we have proposed in good faith.

ONE OF THE GREATEST BENEFITS FOR SMALL BUSINESS IS HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, one of the myths that's being perpetrated by those who are trying to stop health care reform is that this is going to be somehow dangerous to small businesses. Well, small businesses know what it is to feel the pain of the dysfunctional health care system. They know that 60 percent of their owners and workers and their families are uninsured. They know that their premiums have gone up 129 percent in just the last 9 years. They know that they pay 18 percent more in premiums and their deductibles are twice as much as somebody working for a large firm.

Our reform measure creates competition so that small businesses have the same bargaining power, the same opportunities as the largest companies in this country to provide health care for their families and their owners.

We also know that we're providing a tax credit to help those small businesses do what they want to do, which is to provide their employees with health care.

So forget the myths. Rely on the facts. This is one of the greatest benefits for small business that we could